CASE PL/2-22807/A/PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE PCT NATIONAL STAGE APPLICATION OF

Group Art Unit:

PAOLO BALLIELLO

Examiner:

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP 03/50874

FILED: NOVEMBER 24, 2003

FOR: DUST-FREE PIGMENT COMPOSITIONS

OBTAINABLE BY SPRAY-DRYING

U.S. APPLICATION NO:

35 USC 371 DATE:

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Applicants respectfully submit the present Preliminary Amendment to place the instant claims in better condition for examination on their merits.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any necessary fee or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-1935.